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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/613,341	
	Filing Date	JULY 3, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	NEIL A.A. SIMPSON, ET AL.	
	Art Unit	3679	
	Examiner Name	ERIC K. NICHOLSON	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	24	Attorney Docket Number	MRKS/0093

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (3 Replacement Sheets) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): 3 sheets of marked-up drawings
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Peter L. Brewer, Registration No. 41,636 Moser, Patterson & Sheridan, L.L.P.
Signature	
Date	September 7, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Typed or printed name	Peter L. Brewer		
Signature		Date	September 7, 2004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: *Neil A.A. Simpson,
et al.*

Serial No.: 10/613,341

Confirmation No.: 5149

Filed: July 3, 2003

For: Coupling Tubulars

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Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: Eric K. Nicholson

Customer No.: 36,735

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on September 7, 2004 with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
<u>9-7-04</u> Date	<u>P. J. B...</u> Signature

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 4, 2004

In response to the Office Action dated May 4, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 4, 2004, please enter this Response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. A Petition for One Month Extension of Time is being filed herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0093/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this Response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this Paper. **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 11 and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this Paper.